

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8458

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW, XF

SUBJECT: FRG SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON BRANDT LETTER TO
NIXON

1. AT HIS OCT. 31 PRESS CONFERENCE, FRG SPOKESMAN, VON
WECHMAR, CONFIRMED THAT CHANCELLOR BRANDT HAD SENT A
LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND MADE THE FOLLOWING STATE-
MENT: BEGIN TEXT.

(A) CHANCELLOR UNDERLINED IN THIS LETTER THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE;

(B) HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF ENERGETICALLY IN FAVOR OF
THE COHESION OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND THE CLOSE
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE USA;

NATURALLY, THE CHANCELLOR ALSO EXPRESSLY ACKNOWLEDGED
THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF THE US TO END THE CONFLICT IN
THE NEAR EAST.

ASSERTIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S PERSONAL
LETTER WAS CAST IN COOL TONES ARE FALSE. IT IS

ALSO FALSE TO ASSERT THAT THE CHANCELLOR SPOKE OF
A NEUTRAL ATTITUDE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE

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NEAR EAST CONFLICT. THE CHANCELLOR STATED EARLIER IN

HIS DECLARATION BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG--IT CAN BE READ IN THE RECORD--AND I QUOTE: BEGIN QUOTE: THE NON-PARTISAN POSITION TAKEN BY THE FRG IN THAT MILITARY CONFLICT SHOULD BY NO MEANS BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS CONSTITUTING INDIFFERENCE TO THE EVENTS THERE. CLOSE QUOTE. WE REJECT THE ATTEMPT OF THE OPPOSITION TO READ SOMETHING DIFFERENT INTO THE CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENTS. MOREOVER, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HOLDS FIRMLY TO ITS GOAL--THIS TOO FINDS EXPRESSION IN THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON--THAT THE ALLIANCE MUST BE STRENGTHENED AND INTENSIFIED. THE CHANCELLOR'S LETTER, WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO WASHINGTON SEVERAL DAYS AGO, IS, MOREOVER, PART OF A PERSONAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME. END TEXT.

2. VON WECHMAR WAS ASKED WHY THE CHANCELLOR HAD WAITED UNTIL NOW TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THIS MATTER. HE ANSWERED THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO CARRY ON DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE US GOVERNMENT. HE REFERRED TO THE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, TO THE CONTACTS IN BONN WITH AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND, AND TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE PERMANENT NATO COUNCIL. THE CHANCELLOR PREFERRED, VON WECHMAR SAID, TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE SENDING THE PRESIDENT A MESSAGE DEALING WITH THIS WHOLE PHASE OF EVENTS. THIS DID NOT MEAN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THAT THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WOULD NOT BE CONTINUED.
HILLENBRAND

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